

CLAIMS

1. A control element for a mobile computer and a base station operable to functionally interact with the mobile computer, the control device being
5 operable to;
detect when a mobile computer is interacting with the base station, and cause the mobile computer to perform a transition from an operating state to another state,
wherein the mobile computer saves system context information when
10 performing the transition,
and wherein the control element is operable to cause the base station to perform a transition to an operating state in accordance with the system context information.
- 15 2. A control element according to claim 1 operable to cause the mobile computer to perform a transition from an operating state to the other state by sending a transition request to an operating system of the mobile computer.
3. A control element according to claim 2 operable to detect a transition-
20 complete event generated by the operating system and cause the base station to perform a transition to an operating state in response to the transition.
4. A control element according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the mobile computer saves system context information to a data storage medium
25 provided on the mobile computer and wherein the control element is operable to copy the system context information from the mobile computer data storage medium to a base station data storage medium.

5. A control element according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the control device is operable to cause the base station to perform a transition to an operating state by sending a restore instruction to the base station to cause the base station to restore to an operating state in accordance with the system context information.
6. A control element according to any one of the preceding claims provided as a micro-controller.
7. A mobile computer operable to functionally interact with a base station, the mobile computer being provided with a control element according to any one of the preceding claims.
8. A base station operable to functionally interact with a mobile computer, the base station being provided with a control element according to any one of claims 1 to 6.
9. A mobile computer operable to functionally interact with a base station, the mobile computer being operable to
- detect when the mobile computer is interacting with a base station and perform a transition from an operating state to a another state, wherein the mobile computer saves system context information when performing the transition,
- such that the system context information is retrievable by the base station.

10. A mobile computer according to claim 9 further comprising a local data storage medium wherein the system context information is saved to the local data storage medium.
- 5 11. A mobile computer according to claim 9 or claim 10 operable to perform the transition in response to a transition request received by the mobile computer.
- 10 12. A base station operable to interact with a mobile computer, the base station being operable to detect when a mobile computer is functionally interacting with the base station and perform a transition to an operating state, wherein the step of performing the transition comprises the step of retrieving system context information saved by the mobile computer and performing the transition to an operating state in accordance with the system context information.
- 15 13. A base station according to claim 12 operable to send a transition request to the mobile computer to cause the mobile computer to perform a transition from an operating state to another state and save system context information.
- 20 14. A base station according to claim 12 or claim 13 operable to detect a transition-complete event of the mobile computer and perform a transition to an operating state in response to the transition-complete event.
- 25 15. A base station according to claim 12 or claim 13 or claim 14 wherein the mobile computer saves the system context information to a local data storage medium provided on the mobile computer and wherein the base station reads the local data storage medium to retrieve the system context information.

16. A base station according to claim 16 wherein the base station is operable to copy the system context information to a data storage medium of the base station prior to performing the transition to an operating state.

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17. A system comprising a mobile computer according to any one of claims 9 to 12 and a base station according to any one of claims 13 to 16.

18. A method of controlling a mobile computer comprising the steps of;
10 detecting when the mobile computer is functionally interacting with a base station and
performing a transition from an operating state to another state,
wherein the step of performing the transition comprises storing system context information such that the system context information is retrievable by
15 the base station.

19. A method of controlling a base station comprising the steps of;
detecting when a mobile computer is interacting with the base station
and
20 performing a transition to an operating state,
wherein the step of performing the transition comprises the step of retrieving system context information saved by the mobile computer and performing the transition to an operating state in accordance with the system context information.

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